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It covers (1) U.S. Federal government documents, especially those from executive branch departments and those from the Congressional branch - - Committees, the U.S. General Accounting Office, and the Congressional Budget Office; (2) policy briefs from major private think tanks, especially those in Washington; and (3) major reports from national professional associations. A few new high quality, high relevance think tank-sponsored books are also listed.

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Reports

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Asian Pacific Americans in the United States Congress. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Lorraine H. Tong. May 19, 2011.

In the 112th Congress, 13 Asian Pacific Americans were elected to the United States Congress: 2 Senators, 9 Representatives, and 2 Delegates. A total of 43 Asian Pacific Americans have served in the House and Senate from 1903 to the present: 5 Senators (3 of whom have also served in the House), 21 Representatives (including the 3 who served in the Senate), 7 territorial Delegates, and 13 Resident Commissioners from the Philippine Islands. Resident Commissioners served from 1907-1946 while the Philippines was a U.S. territory and commonwealth (all were Philippine born). Asian Pacific Americans served in a total of 46 seats. The ancestry of these Asian Pacific Americans has included Chinese, Chamorro, Filipino, Asian Indian, Japanese, Korean, Native Hawaiian, Samoan, South Asian, Thai, and Vietnamese.

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/97-398.pdf> [PDF format, 27 pages].

Item#2

Department of State's Counternarcotics Performance Management System. U.S. Government Accountability Office. May 26, 2011.

State measures the performance of its counternarcotics activities based on information provided by the Narcotic Affairs Sections (NAS) at overseas posts on both high-level indicators and project-level indicators. State currently has nine standard indicators for its eradication, interdiction, and drug demand reduction programs, which overseas posts report on, if applicable, to the Office of the Director of U.S. Foreign Assistance in annual Performance Plans and Reports.

<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d11564r.pdf> [PDF format, 19 pages].

Item#3

Exchange 2.0. U.S. Institute of Peace. Sheldon Himelfarb and Shamil Idriss. May 2011.

The orientation of U.S. public diplomacy is changing from telling America's story to direct dialogue in an interconnected world. With this shift has come a need to revitalize a core pillar of public diplomacy strategy: international exchanges. Although traditional exchange programs have been effective in expanding access to cross-cultural educational opportunities beyond those that study-abroad programs reach, participation remains limited. Developing the next generation of Exchange 2.0 initiatives--that is, technology-enabled programs embedded in curricula and with a cross-cultural educational purpose--will improve the number, diversity, and experience of international exchange participants, contend the authors.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.usip.org/files/resources/Exchange2.0.pdf> [PDF format, 8 pages].

Item#4

The G8 Agenda: Mideast Push. Council on Foreign Relations. Toni Johnson. May 25, 2011.

Mideast upheaval was a top issue at the G8, long with nuclear safety, leadership of the IMF, and aid to Africa. The Backgrounder profiles the eight participants and their priorities.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.cfr.org/europerussia/g8-agenda-mideast-push/p25102> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#5

How Will the Great Recession Affect Future Retirement Incomes? Urban Institute. Barbara Butrica. May 26, 2011.

The financial impact of the 2007-2009 recession will reverberate into retirement for many working families, even those who did not lose their jobs. Average wages grew very slowly during the downturn, reducing lifetime earnings. Lower earnings leave less income to set aside for retirement and depress future Social Security and pension incomes. Although unusually strong wage growth in coming years could bail out younger workers, there is little recourse for workers now approaching traditional retirement ages. For those age 55 to 59 in 2008, the Great Recession will reduce average age-70 incomes by 5 percent.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/412339-Future-Retirement-Incomes.pdf> [PDF format, 2 pages].

Item#6

Is Protectionism Dying? Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Uri Dadush et al. May 26, 2011.

Although World Trade Organization policies helped limit the increase in protectionist measures during the recent financial crisis, a mutually reinforcing set of legal and structural changes in the world economy played a larger role in keeping global markets open, according to the report.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://carnegieendowment.org/files/is_protectionism_dying.pdf [PDF format, 34 pages].

Item#7

Low-carbon Innovation: A Uniquely American Strategy for Industrial Renewal. Center for American Progress. Bracken Hendricks et al. May 31, 2011.

The authors explain how low-carbon industrial strategies can ensure American sustained leadership in innovation.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2011/05/pdf/gcn_low_carbon.pdf [PDF format, 69 pages].

Item#8

Oil and Gas: Interior's Restructuring Challenges in the Aftermath of the Gulf Oil Spill. U.S. Government Accountability Office. June 2, 2011.

The Department of the Interior oversees oil and gas activities on leased federal lands and waters. Revenue generated from federal oil and gas production is one of the largest nontax sources of federal government funds, accounting for about \$9 billion in fiscal year 2009. In 2011, GAO identified Interior's management of oil and gas resources as a high risk issue. GAO's work in this area identified challenges in five areas: (1) reorganization, (2) balancing responsibilities, (3) human capital, (4) revenue collection, and (5) development of existing leases.

<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d11734t.pdf> [PDF format, 15 pages].

Item#9

Promoting Full-Time Attendance Among Adults in Community College. MDRC. Lashawn Richburg-Hayes, Colleen Sommo, and Rashida Welbeck. May 2011.

Many adult students struggle to finance their educations, often contending with work and child care expenses in addition to the extra cost of remedial courses. Moreover, there is little need-based grant aid to help. The report presents early findings from an evaluation of a program in New York City targeted to low-income adults (ages 22 to 35) who need remedial course work.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.mdrc.org/publications/596/full.pdf> [PDF format, 50 pages].

Item#10

A Time for Deeper of Learning: Preparing Students for a Changing World. Alliance for Excellent Education. May 26, 2011.

The increasingly complex world demands much of its students. In almost every aspect of their lives, young people are being asked to learn more, process more, and produce more. Now more than ever the national's education system is being challenged by a technology driven global economy that requires a skilled and deeply literate workforce. The brief examines deeper learning, the knowledge and skills all students need to succeed in college, a career, and life, and explains its necessity and analyzes the growing body of global evidence supporting its widescale implementation.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://all4ed.org/files/DeeperLearning.pdf> [PDF format, 10 pages].

Item#11

Top Reaction to GOP Field -- "Unimpressed" Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. June 1, 2011.

Americans have decidedly negative reactions to the candidates running for the Republican presidential nomination, according to the survey. Asked for a single word to describe the GOP field, the top response is a variation on "unimpressed," with 42 mentions. Overall, 44% offer negative words to describe the Republican candidates, 19% use neutral words and just 12% use positive words.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://pewresearch.org/pubs/2010/negative-reactions-republican-presidential-candidates> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#12

"We've Never Seen Such Horror": Crimes against Humanity by Syrian Security Forces. Human Rights Watch. June 1, 2011.

The report is based on more than 50 interviews with victims and witnesses to abuses. The report focuses on violations in Daraa governorate, where some of the worst violence took place after protests seeking greater freedoms began in various parts of the country. The specifics went largely unreported due to the information blockade imposed by the Syrian authorities. Victims and witnesses interviewed by Human Rights Watch described systematic killings, beatings, torture using electroshock devices, and detention of people seeking medical care.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.hrw.org/en/reports/2011/06/01/we-ve-never-seen-such-horror-0> [HTML format with links].